



Date: November 20, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director, Transportation Department
From: Ellen Beckmann, Transportation Planner
Subject: Agenda Item – Provide Comments on Draft FY 2014-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Executive Summary

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the document that lists all transportation projects that will receive state and federal funding over a seven-year period. The Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) released the draft FY 2014-2020 TIP for public comment on October 10, 2012. The MPO will be working with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to develop and adopt the final TIP and final State TIP in June 2013.

DCHC MPO staff will provide an informational presentation on the Draft FY 2014-2020 TIP. The City of Durham may submit comments on the TIP to the DCHC MPO for consideration in developing the final TIP.

Recommendation

Receive the staff presentation and provide comments on the Draft FY 2014-2020 Transportation Improvement Program

Background

The TIP is the document that lists all transportation projects that will receive state and federal funding over a seven-year period. It is adopted biennially by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the DCHC MPO, the regional transportation planning organization for the Durham urbanized area. The NC Board of Transportation adopts a State TIP. Federal regulations require that the State TIP and DCHC MPO TIP are consistent over the first four years (FY 2014-2017). Federal regulations also require that the TIP meets air quality conformity standards. Transportation projects cannot receive federal funding if they are not in an adopted conforming TIP.

Development of the FY 2014-2020 TIP began in 2011 with the development of local project priority lists by each of the MPO's member jurisdictions. The DCHC MPO then applied a regional project ranking methodology to create a prioritized list of projects. NCDOT also has a project ranking methodology that it uses to prioritize projects. The DCHC MPO's project rank is an input to the State's ranking methodology. NCDOT produced a statewide ranking of projects that was based on a combination of quantitative data, MPO project rankings, and NCDOT Highway Division rankings.

Both the MPO and State's methodologies sort projects into categories based on mode, tier, and goal. The modes are:

- Highway
- Bicycle/Multi-Use Path
- Pedestrian
- Transit
- Rail

The tiers (used for highway and transit only) are:

- Statewide – Interstates and Strategic Highway Corridors (e.g. I-40, US 15-501); Inter-State transit (e.g. Greyhound)
- Regional – Remaining NC and US routes (e.g. NC 54, NC 751); multi-county transit systems (e.g. TTA)
- Subregional – SR routes (e.g. Fayetteville Road, Hillandale Road); single county transit systems (e.g. DATA)

The goals (used for highway and transit) are:

- Safety (e.g. crash reduction highway projects or transit security projects)
- Mobility (e.g. highway capacity improvements or expansion buses)
- Health (e.g. pavement resurfacing, modernization or replacement buses)

NCDOT held both internal and external investment summits to discuss how the State's funding should be divided among modes, tiers, and goals. DCHC MPO staff participated in the investment summits held for Division 5 (Durham County) and Division 7 (Orange County). The results of these summits revealed that stakeholders desired to see a greater percentage of funding spent on non-highway modes and that, within the highway mode, stakeholders desired to see a greater percentage of funding spent on safety projects and infrastructure health projects than mobility projects.

NCDOT released a Draft FY 2014-2020 State TIP in September 2012. The State TIP was included in NCDOT's Policy to Projects document which includes a five-year work program and five-year developmental work program. The years of the TIP overlaps these work programs as shown below:

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5- year Work Program					Developmental Work Program					
	STIP									

On October 10, 2012, the Transportation Advisory Committee of the DCHC MPO released the draft State TIP as the draft TIP for public comment. The DCHC MPO held a public hearing at the November 14, 2012 TAC meeting. The TAC meets next on December 12, 2012. At this meeting, the TAC will endorse a list of discussion points in preparation for one-on-one meetings with NCDOT to be held in January 2013. These discussion points will identify areas where the MPO does not agree with NCDOT. MPO and NCDOT staff will work together to develop the final State TIP and final DCHC MPO TIP. The final State TIP and DCHC MPO TIP are expected to be adopted in June 2013.

Issues/Analysis

The Durham area has several projects funded for construction in the draft TIP. These projects are:

- US 501-Infinity-Latta Intersection – upgrade intersection to reduce congestion – funded through the City and Mobility Fund – right-of-way acquisition in FY 2013, construction in FY 2014
- NC 54-Farrington-I-40 Slip Ramp – construct slip ramp from northbound Farrington Road to I-40 eastbound at NC 54 interchange – funded through the Mobility Fund – construction in FY 2014
- NC 55 (Alston Avenue) Widening from NC 147 to NC 98 – right-of-way acquisition in FY 2013, construction in FY 2015-2016
- East End Connector – funded through the Urban Loop program - right-of-way acquisition in FY 2013, construction in FY 2014-2017
- NC 54 Widening from Barbee Chapel Rd to I-40 – funded through the Mobility Fund – right of way and construction in FY 2022
- Hopson Rd-NCRR grade separation and track realignment – construction in FY 2013-2015.
- Duke St Sidewalks from Murray Ave to Roxboro Rd – right-of-way acquisition in FY 2020, construction in FY 2021
- University Dr Bicycle Lanes and Sidewalks from Garrett Rd to Cornwallis Rd – construction in FY 2015

The Durham area has several projects funded for right-of-way acquisition only through FY 2022. These projects are:

- NC 54 Widening from Fayetteville Rd to NC 55 – right-of-way acquisition in FY 2020-2023
- US 501 Widening from Duke St to Goodwin Rd – funded through the Urban Loop program - right of way acquisition in FY 2020-2021
- I-85 Widening from US 70 to Red Mill Rd – funded through the Urban Loop program – right-of-way in FY 2022

The Durham area also has several projects funded for feasibility studies. Feasibility studies are initial studies NCDOT conducts to better understand the scope and costs of potential projects before a decision is made on whether to fund the projects. It does not guarantee that the projects will be funded soon. However, in many cases, studies are done on projects that there is a high degree of interest in completing and/or that have scored well in the prioritization methodologies. These projects are:

- I-40 Managed Lanes – Will study the addition of two managed lanes on I-40 from NC 86 in Orange County to Wade Avenue in Wake County (the Wake County terminus may be extended further east). Managed lanes could be tolled lanes possibly with free use by high occupancy vehicles.
- NC 147 Widening from I-40 to the East End Connector
- NC 751 Widening from NC 54 to US 64
- US 70 Upgrade to freeway and Aviation Parkway extension
- Northern Durham Parkway from US 70 to US 501
- NC 54 Widening from I-40 to Fayetteville Rd – Feasibility Study has been completed

Based on the current status of the environmental documents and right-of-way acquisition, most of the projects funded for construction in the TIP cannot be accelerated. It might be feasible for the NC 54 Widening from Barbee Chapel Rd to I-40 to be accelerated slightly if NCDOT initiates the environmental document soon. It is anticipated that NCDOT would complete one environmental document for the entire NC 54 widening project from Barbee

Chapel Rd to NC 55. Due to the size of this project, this document may take several years to complete.

In addition, environmental review and design work is still needed for the US 501-Infinity-Latta and NC 54-Farrington-I-40 projects. These projects may need to be delayed slightly in order for the projects to be ready for construction. It is also important that the environmental studies be initiated on the US 501 Widening and I-85 Widening projects to ensure that right-of-way acquisition remains on schedule in the draft TIP.

Of the highway projects that are not funded for right-of-way acquisition or construction in the draft TIP, the following projects scored relatively high according to the state's prioritization methodology:

- I-40 Managed Lanes - #12 Statewide-Mobility
 - This is a very complex and expensive project. A feasibility study will commence soon. The feasibility of toll financing and availability of state "gap" funding to cover costs not able to be financed through the tolling will largely determine the schedule for this project.
- NC 147 – East End Connector to US 15/501 – modernization, pavement rehabilitation, ramp consolidations, interchange upgrades - #26 Statewide-Infrastructure Health
 - This project was submitted by Highway Division 5. The scope of this project needs further discussion.
- Fayetteville Rd Widening from Woodcroft Pkwy to Riddle Rd - #36 Subregional-Mobility

Durham also has many large on-road bicycle projects that were categorized as Highway-Subregional-Infrastructure Health projects that scored well. NCDOT categorized all on-road bicycle projects with a cost more than \$1 million as highway projects. The reasoning being that in many cases projects of this size involve re-building the entire roadway including relocating curbs and utilities and that projects of this size are beyond the budget of NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Division. High-scoring projects in Durham in this category include:

- Barbee Chapel Rd/Farrington Rd Bicycle Lanes and Sidewalks from NC 54 to Stagecoach Rd - #6 Subregional-Infrastructure Health
- Dearborn Dr Bicycle Lanes and Sidewalks from Club Blvd to Old Oxford Rd - #7 Subregional-Infrastructure Health
- W. Cornwallis Rd Bicycle Lanes and Sidewalks from Erwin Rd to Chapel Hill Rd - #30 Subregional-Infrastructure Health

The draft STIP only includes \$14 million for the Subregional-Infrastructure Health category for the entire state. None of the state's funds in this category are programmed for bicycle and pedestrian type projects. No projects in this category were funded in Division 5. The lack of state commitment to these types of projects leaves larger bicycle and pedestrian projects without a state funding source. Without a state funding source, these projects will need to be funded through the MPO's limited funding sources (STPDA, CMAQ) and local governments.

With the limited Bicycle and Pedestrian Division funding available, Durham is fortunate to have two sidewalk projects funded for construction (Duke St and University Dr). Durham did have several other projects that scored relatively well in these categories, but were not funded. These projects are:

- Rocky Creek Greenway from NC 55 to the R Kelly Bryant Bridge over NC 147 - #18 Bicycle/Multi-Use Facility
- Roxboro Rd Sidewalks from Murray Ave to Pacific Ave - #21 Pedestrian
- Holloway St Sidewalks and Wide-Outside Lanes from Junction Rd to Chandler Rd - #28 Pedestrian

Durham Area Transit Authority staff has identified the following bus replacement needs for FY 2014-2016.

Year	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Replacement Buses	12	10	6
Cost Estimates (hybrid buses)	\$7,218,240	\$6,195,656	\$3,828,918

While DATA currently has a high spare ratio, with the aging of the 2003 model buses, DATA will need to replace 28 buses to maintain service levels and to expand services as recommended in the Designing Better Bus Services plan. The Federal Transit Administration requires that bus systems maintain a spare ratio of 20 percent.

The draft TIP does not include any bus replacements for DATA. Replacement buses were included in the DCHC MPO's regional priority list. DCHC MPO and DATA staff will be pursuing federal funding for bus replacements in the final TIP and STIP.

Alternatives

The City of Durham could decide to not submit comments on the draft TIP to the DCHC MPO. The City's TAC members and staff will represent the City's interests at MPO meetings on this issue.

Financial Analysis

This agenda item does not have a direct impact on the City budget. However, some of the projects in the Transportation Improvement Program will require City funding.

SDBE Summary

This item does not require review by the Office of Equal Opportunity /Equity Assurance.

Attachments

Presentation Handout
Summary Table and Map